Socialist Worker

Only workers' unity can keep the peace

A YEAR on from the ceasefire nothing much has changed in the north for working class people. Frustration at this has led to a rise in tension seen in riots and an increase in sectarian attacks.

The failure of the peace process to deliver any real change means that sectarian bigots like Paisley can direct peoples anger back along sectarian lines.

The Tories' talk about the decommissioning of arms is complete hypocrisy. The RUC and thousands of British Troops are still heavily armed.

The RUC showed that they haven't changed a bit. On the Derry walls they fired plastic bullets at republican protesters. This contrasts with events in Larne a week before where Orange bigots blocked the road to the ferry, but no one was arrested.

Of course, Sinn Fein should be included in talks, but talks with John Major or unionist politicians will achieve nothing.

The Tories have shown they don't give a damn about the peace. They

After March Drink and Discussion...

Where is the Peace Process going?

Speaker: Eamonn McCann (Derry SWP)

Saturday 26th August
Parnell Mooney, Parnell St

deliberately endangered the peace by releasing the para killer Lee Clegg for political reasons, while the political prisoners remain in jail.

For the same reasons they are now stalling on including Sinn fein in all-party discussions.

However, it is also clear that it is a terrible mistake to look for alliances with right wing politicians like Mary O Rourke or Fianna Fail. O Rourke and FF in government led the attacks on workers in Irish Steel, Team Aer Lingus, introduced the 1% levy and water charges and were responsible for bringing in draconian anti-union trade union legislation. At the same time they gave a tax amnesty to the rich and allowed Larry Goodman off the hook in the beef tribunal.

FF's record on the north is no better. It was Fianna Fail in government who stood by while the hunger strikers died. They also introduced Section 31 and extradited Dessie Ellis while on hunger strike.

FF might be from "our nation" but they are not from our class. For them their class interests will always come first.

The problem with the entire peace process is that it offers nothing to workers. Instead of challenging sectarianism it hopes to manage it. The process takes for granted there is no possibility of bringing the two communities together.

This will only serve to institutionalise sectarian competition between catholic and protestant workers for low-paid jobs, scarce resources and facilities. In this situation a return to open conflict is always on the cards.

A lasting peace can only be based on an outcome that advances and improves the position of both protestant and catholic workers. This cannot be done by looking to right wing politicians like Fianna Fail or for that matter Bill Clinton and Big Business in America.

It can only be done by looking beyond the politics of nationalism, and building a Socialist organisation committed to working class unity and fighting both rotten states on this island.

The Socialist Workers Party is building such a party. Join us.

Join the Socialists!

Name _____ Address _____

_____ Phone: _____

Fill in and return to the Socialist Workers Party PO Box 1648 Dublin 8